

Statement on SB 13

By the Partnership for Safe Medicines

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The Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM) opposes the bulk Canadian drug importation provisions in Connecticut legislation SB 13. We believe that bulk Canadian importation is difficult to implement, won't lead to savings or safety if implemented, and faces structural impediments not addressable by the state of Connecticut or even the Federal government.

- **No savings for Medicaid patients.** Imported medicines will not offer any savings to Connecticut's neediest patients. [An analysis by PSM of prescription drug usage by residents of the state of Maine](#) found that it would cost the state nearly one million dollars more to import some of the most frequently used medicines than it would if the state just used the rebates currently available to it.
- **Canadian stakeholders oppose importation proposals.** Canadian medicines are not available to us. Canadians, including the federal government led by Trudeau, healthcare professionals, and patient communities implemented permanent restrictions on bulk exports in 2021. Additionally, federal law prohibits states from importing from any other country besides Canada.
- **Biologic medicine, including insulin, cannot be imported.** Under the 2003 federal law that this state law must operate under, biologics including insulin cannot be imported. Many non-biologic (small molecule) medicines already have cheaper generic options in the U.S.

Drug importation sounds like a good idea, but because of a lack of access to the legitimate Canadian drug supply, will feed an existing black market in poorly regulated and counterfeit drugs. To that end, we oppose the bulk Canadian drug importation provisions of SB 13.